

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

ALLISON NICHOLS
EDITOR, 962-4086
NALLISON@EMAIL.UNC.EDU
OFFICE HOURS:
MON., WED. 2-3 P.M.
ERIC JOHNSON
PUBLIC EDITOR
ERICJOHNSON@UNC.EDU

AISHA SAAD
OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
SAAD@UNC.EDU
DAVID GIANCASPRO
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
GIANCASPRO@UNC.EDU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
LISA ANDRUKONIS
YANIV BARZILAI
BEN BUCK
HARRISON JOBE
GREG MARGOLIS
ANDREW STILES
SARAH WHITWORTH



ANDREA LUDTKE
THE BLUNT BLONDE
Sophomore journalism major from
Weston, Fla.

E-MAIL: ANDREAL8@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

Stop the green, go out with a bang

“E at it.”
“What?”
“A bunny might come along and choke on it. L.N.T. — leave no trace.”
“But it’s a peanut. Don’t they grow in the ground anyway?”
“Still.”

I watched in horror as the counselor situated himself on the ground and ate the last of my clumsy trail mix consumption. “Not in North Carolina!” you gasp.

No, not yet, but the threat is imminent. In the Princeton Review’s recent Green Ratings report, UNC scored 96 of 99 possible points. This is the highest of any rated university in the state!

Time is running out, my friends. We must act now to save our school from this hookah-centered dogma.

Should we fail in our mission, we’ll erode into the skeleton of normalcy like the last school, Williams College: the backdrop for many an environmental crime.

What’s happening, you ask? Well, a long time ago — the ‘80s to be exact (ask a wrinkly person) — America snuffed out the peace pipes of the hippies and confined them to the greenest patch of land they’d never want to leave — Vermont.

They danced barefoot in hand-holding rings with their leaders Ben and Jerry and hugged trees in utter bliss all day long.

Well, apparently there’s a hole in the fence up there and the hippies are hugging their way South. I was fooled when I arrived.

Seemingly normal youth roamed campus. But the greatest disguises conceal the greatest deception.

Hippies no longer sport love beads and tie dye or wave the peace sign in the air to signify their kind. No, their signs are more subtle — an unshaven leg, a reusable shopping bag, a hobby of flower pressing.

They abound at Williams, and their tyranny places the peanut-brained fur balls over the quality of human life. It has got to stop.

That horror story was just one puff of hookah I had to inhale in my time there. There were the reusable cups I had to lug around and wash all day, the reusable lunch bags that are hardly designed to fit inside a Coach mini, and the glares I got while trying to stuff my cardboard in with the regular trash.

Now Carolina isn’t yet a claimed territory of the Jerry Garcia disciples, but the green ratings show we’re being invaded. It’s just a matter of time before underwear and razors are a thing of the past, and yellow is allowed to mellow.

When will the madness end? Soon, they’ll be cutting down my 45-minute shower twice a day to 30 minutes. Looking this good can’t be rushed.

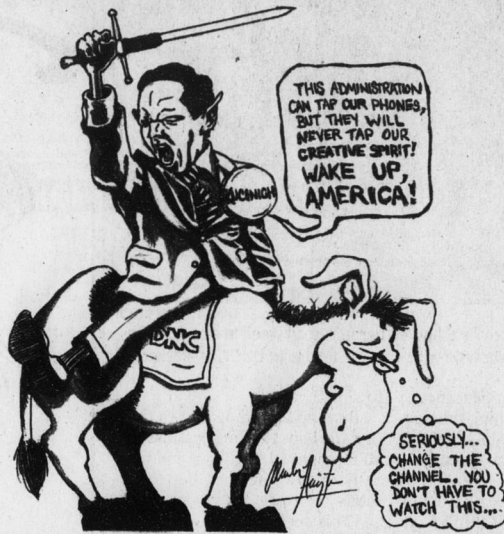
Sure, we need water, but when it’s gone it’s gone. Why prolong the inevitable downfall of mankind?

Plus, the infallible law of natural selection dictates that only the strongest will survive. Ipso facto, if the other animals and plants aren’t smart enough to provide for themselves, we humans are really just being enablers by giving them free handouts. I think President Reagan would side with me on this one.

Do we really want future generations to be bound by the same unlivable level of discomfort, unhappiness and inconvenience that we have to live with? Of course not.

It would be much more humane of us to just deplete our resources and let the human race go out with a bang as nature intended. Fat and happy.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Alex Herrington, achctts1@email.unc.edu



South Building fortified

Barring DTH reporters from Chancellor’s retreat erects wall between students, administration

UNC administrators shrugged off calls for transparency after barring DTH reporters from the chancellor’s retreat at the Carolina Inn yesterday.

This contradicts the flagship message of open accessibility promoted by Chancellor Holden Thorp early in the semester.

According to N.C. Open Meetings Law, an appointed body with advisory functions falls under guidelines for “meetings of public bodies,” as detailed in Article 33 Section C of N.C. Legislation Statutes.

The open meetings law does not apply to meetings consisting exclusively of professional staff.

The law leaves ambiguous how “staff” is defined. For the past 12 years, the University has been operating under a non-binding agreement it reached with the N.C. Press Association

to avoid lawsuits.

According to that agreement, the definition of staff is a committee consisting only of administrative officers — vice chancellors, deans, department chairs, for example.

But Wednesday’s meeting included University administrators, deans and town leaders — including Chapel Hill mayor Kevin Foy and Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton.

UNC even violated the non-legally binding 1996 agreement by excluding reporters from the sessions with town officials.

N.C. open meetings law is open to interpretation and relevant case precedent is murky.

But one thing is crystal clear: Just because a meeting legally can be closed does not mean that it has to be or should be.

Thorp has repeatedly promoted an open and accessible

administration, telling The Daily Tar Heel in an interview earlier this month that “we don’t have a fortress built around South Building.”

But the administration’s exclusive decision is doing just that by reinforcing an informed elite that students cannot access. This attitude runs the risk of constructing a wall more impenetrable than brick and mortar.

The Daily Tar Heel prides itself on being a layer of permeability between decision-makers and the public and should have access to report on publicly discussed policies that directly concern its readership.

This is a public university, run by public officials, serving the public community. Accordingly, the meetings and decisions that shape its direction and mission also must be public.

A huge pot of money

The Association of Student Governments needs to find a way to use its funds to help students

One dollar. That doesn’t sound like a lot of money. You probably have several times that amount in change under the seat of your car or in the pockets of the jeans littering your bedroom floor or rattling around the bottom of your purse.

But take that dollar and multiply it by 199,000 and now we’re talking some serious change.

That’s about how much money the Association of Student Governments rakes in every year in student fees — \$1 from every student at the 16 universities in the system.

The ASG is a nonpartisan organization comprising student leaders from the 16 UNC

campuses and charged with advocating for students.

In other words, using your dollar to advance your interests.

Come to think of it, you could probably figure out a lot of ways to spend a dollar. One hour of parking on South Road. One load of laundry. Four handfuls of chocolate-covered coffee beans at the Daily Grind.

We’re not against student fees. We just want to make sure that we get as much utility out of them as we would out of having clean clothes for a week.

The ASG has struggled in the past with allocating its immense budget in a way that benefits students at all its constituent universities.

It has also struggled with

in-fighting among representatives from different universities, General Administration threats of greater oversight and a president being forced to resign after being convicted with criminal assault.

We feel confident that some of those problems won’t repeat this year and guardedly optimistic that all can be resolved and put firmly in the past.

As the ASG embarks on what has the potential to be a building year, we hope that it will not only structure itself into a responsible, organized representative body but that it will also develop a clearer set of funding priorities that are responsive to students.

Because it is your dollar.

The four-month plan

Director’s early resignation could slow progress on 10-year poverty reduction plan

The bold proposal to end homelessness in Orange County appears a little more bold.

After less than five months on the job, the first coordinator of the countywide 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness has resigned.

The plan is an ambitious proposal to eradicate chronic homelessness in Orange County by 2018 and was overseen by coordinator Carson Dean. He stepped down from his position this month, and he will soon become the executive director of a homeless shelter in Uptown Charlotte.

The abrupt change in leadership gives the appearance of a lack of commitment to end-

ing homelessness at the highest levels of this initiative. The absence of a coordinator could significantly hamper the efforts to implement this already unrealistic and arduous plan.

It would be surprising to have a new coordinator this year, but it would be even more stunning if the plan was still on track for completion in 2018.

While Dean said his decision to resign had “nothing to do with the work here in Orange County,” this change in leadership is nonetheless disappointing for residents here.

The time seemed right to address the issue of homelessness in our community. Even with an estimated cost of \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars per year,

Orange County was finally ready to focus its efforts and put an end to homelessness.

Dean is leaving Orange County at a precarious time. A recent report by the N.C. Employment Security Commission found the unemployment level to be 5.1 percent, the highest in 18 years.

A daytime stroll down Franklin Street reinforces the picture that the numbers paint: homelessness is still prevalent in our community.

Fortunately, the motivation and resources to end homelessness are now readily available.

The context for ending homelessness is here. Now, all that is needed is the leadership.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“It’s been mediocre for so long that looking excellent isn’t that hard.”

GREG DOUCETTE, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS, ON THE ASG

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

“Shouldn’t we be asking the two candidates why they knowingly broke two big rules? ... Especially because the reporter contacted a third candidate and he/she knew better than to accept an interview.”

ON DTH WRITERS NEED TO READ UP ON ELECTION PROTOCOL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Career fairs cater to wide range of UNC students

TO THE EDITOR:

This month, University Career Services will host two of its largest career fairs: The Diversity Career Fair on Sept. 17 and the Fall Career Expo on Sept. 18.

These events attract hundreds of employers who recruit Carolina students for positions in nonprofit, government, and business-related sectors. Though the career fairs are widely publicized, many students still don’t attend.

Some common myths that plague students’ attendance include: the career fairs are just for business students, there are no jobs there that interest me, the fairs are just for seniors, I must have a resume, underclassmen aren’t welcome, employers aren’t interested in my major, and so on.

As a career services professional, it’s frustrating to see so many misinformed students miss out on great opportunities.

The vast majority of employers at the career fairs are open to all majors — they’re looking for bright, talented, motivated Carolina students, regardless of major. These events aren’t just for seniors — underclassmen and undecided students need to learn about future career options and internship opportunities.

Our employers spend time, money and energy to come to campus because they want to meet the best that Carolina has to offer. One way to ensure that they come back next year is to provide them with a great student turnout this year! For information, please visit careers.unc.edu or call to make an appointment with a counselor.

Jeff Sackaroff
Associate Director
University Career Services

RHA aims to serve, make housing feel like home

TO THE EDITOR:

The Residence Hall Association’s chief mission is to serve our on-campus residents in ways that, ideally stated, should make housing feel like home.

This year, we would like to implement a revamped enhancements system for all community members, develop more streamlined transitions and defined roles for each executive board member, and to thoroughly plan and execute a highly attended RHA week by this semester’s end. We also look forward to working with the Board of Governors to continue approving and funding exciting new and educational programs for students.

We want to excite students so they consider taking active leadership roles in their respective community governments. As a student-run body that represents our residents’ voices on campus, we are truly excited at the prospects this year brings us and to become the household name in making your dormitory, apartment or community your home.

Ryan Spears
Residence Hall Association
External Affairs

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- ▶ Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- ▶ Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
- ▶ Students: include your year, major and phone number.
- ▶ Faculty/staff: include your

department and phone number.

▶ Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

SUBMISSION:

- ▶ Drop-off: at our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union.
- ▶ E-mail: to editdesk@unc.edu
- ▶ Send: to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board. The board consists of seven board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.